

March 2, 2000

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Glacier National Park

From: Going-to-the-Sun Road Advisory Committee

Subject: Recommendations

The Going-to-the-Sun Road Advisory Committee met on February 29, March 1 and 2, 2000, at Cavanaugh's Center Mall in Kalispell, Montana to begin deliberations on recommendations to the National Park Service in managing the future rehabilitation/reconstruction of the Going-to-the-Sun Road. These public meetings resulted in the following recommendations.

The committee unanimously elected Randy Ogle as committee chairman.

The committee will form task groups as necessary to deal with specific items.

The committee advises the National Park Service to immediately initiate the appropriate NEPA compliance process. The committee further asked that the National Park Service report back to the committee with the steps that would entail and the cost. The committee asks the National Park Service to ensure that all legal requirements are fulfilled. Unanimously approved.

The following are recommended changes to the Draft Project Agreement (February 23, 2000):

1. Strike the reference to environmental assessment and instead refer to the term "appropriate environmental compliance (NEPA)" throughout the document.
2. In Section III add: Coordinate with other federal, state, provincial and local road agencies to schedule road improvements in an optimal manner.
3. In Section C. (Add as a preamble) Develop a mitigation strategy. Socio-economic analysis will contribute to a better comparison of these complex alternatives and shall rely in part upon the following information.
 1. Detailed baseline economic information about businesses in the Glacier Park area so that rehabilitation/mitigation can be actually estimated. (include all of number 1 from draft project agreement dated 2/23/00)
 2. Econometric forecast of park visitation that would occur without the projects so that impacts of various alternatives might be estimated.
 3. Detailed models must be estimated that directly link park visitation patterns with local business activity so that impacts of rehabilitation may be estimated.
 4. Detailed analysis about the relationships between rehabilitation of the Going-to-the-Sun Road and the regional and national economy.
 5. Develop a plan to identify innovative marketing strategies.

6. Identify ways that the rehabilitation project may be integrated into the local economy so as to assist the economically disadvantaged residents of the Glacier National Park region.
 7. Eliminate #3 from the draft (included in 2 above).
 8. Eliminate #4 from the draft (included in 4 above).
 9. Eliminate #5 from the draft (included in 1, 2, and 3 above).
 10. Eliminate #7 from the draft
 11. Retain #s 6, 8 and 9 from the draft.
4. The term "Glacier Area" needs to be defined.
 5. Enhancement of Glacier National Park's interpretative programs which could be a distinct change in alternatives for the visitor.
 6. Need to analyze ways to maintain current levels of visitation during construction.
 7. The Park Service needs to get out the message about rehabilitation.
 8. On page 5 under II scope, A. Study Assumption/Parameters, 1. Add the words rehabilitate/enhance in the first sentence between the words reconstruct and the. The first sentence should read 1. The goal is to reconstruct/rehabilitate and enhance within historic parameters the entire Going-to-the-Sun Road to a quality etc.
 9. On page 7 add a B.4. Add scope for historical road study.
 10. Include statement in deliverables on recommendations for operation and maintenance to protect the capital investment.
 11. Recommend study for the feasibility of an endowment for long term maintenance of the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
 12. Page 8, section E. should be split into two sections. One for the Going-to-the-Sun Road Transportation/Visitor Plan and one for the Environmental documents.
 13. Check the document for consistency in "reconstruction" or "rehabilitation": replace with statement or footnote to indicate that this means "reconstruction/rehabilitation/enhancement within the context of historic preservation standards."

The committee advises the National Park Service to provide a news clipping service to Advisory Board members and a public web site connected with Glacier National Park. They would also like to see an electronic bulletin board for the committee.

The committee advises the National Park Service to coordinate marketing and public information tasks with other organizations.

The committee recommends that an inventory and analysis of existing studies as a first priority with recommendations for additional studies and cost estimates for those studies to the committee through the National Park Service.

The committee recommends the date for the next meeting to be during the week of September 25.


Randall Ogle